

COMPLETION APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR USE IN WELLBORES

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. patent application Serial ^{now US Patent No. 6665459,} No. 09/918,002, filed July 30, 2001, which is herein incorporated by reference.

1

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention provides an apparatus and methods for use in wellbores. More particularly, the invention provides an apparatus and methods for use with a cement shoe assembly having an isolation sleeve for use in monobore wells. Even more particularly, the invention provides a cement shoe assembly with an enlarged inner diameter portion and a sleeve for isolating the enlarged portion from the bore of the cement shoe, thereby facilitating the expansion of a tubular into the enlarged portion after cementing. The invention also provides an isolation sleeve for use with a casing in a monobore well.

Description of the Related Art

[0003] In the drilling of a hydrocarbon well, a wellbore is formed using a drill bit that is urged downwardly at a lower end of a drill string. After drilling a predetermined depth, the drill string and bit are removed and the wellbore is lined with a string of tubulars or casing. The casing is subsequently cemented, thereby protecting the formation and preventing the walls of the wellbore from collapsing. The casing also provides a reliable path through which drilling tools, drilling mud, and ultimately, production fluid may travel.

[0004] After the wellbore is lined with the initial string of casing, the well is drilled to a new depth. A new string of tubulars or liner is then lowered into the well. The new liner is positioned so that the top of the liner overlaps the bottom of the existing casing. Thereafter, with the liner held in place with a mechanical hanger, the liner is cemented. In cementing a tubular string, a column of cement is pumped into the